

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15089 211814Z

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ACTION SS-25

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R 211024Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5826
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15089

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 5)

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CVIS,UR,CGEN,PINT,SRER
SUBJECT: SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION - A MODERATE UPTURN

ROME AND VIENNA FOR INS

REF: MOSCOW 13525

SUMMARY. THE RATE OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE
USSR HAS BEEN RISING SINCE SEPTEMBER 1 AS REFLECTED IN
MONTHLY TOTAL (1099), 16 PERCENT HIGHER THAN THAT
REGISTERED IN AUGUST. THIS INCREASE HAS
CONTINUED DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF OCTOBER AT A
RATE WHICH, IF CONTINUED, WILL YIELD THE HIGHEST MONTHLY
TOTAL OF 1975. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, SOVIET JEWS WHO
WERE FORMERLY HESITANT HAVE NOW DECIDED TO EMIGRATE
BECAUSE THE SECOND SINAI AGREEMENT APPEARS TO PROMISE
A MORE PEACEFUL ISRAELI FUTURE. UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING
THE PROJECT TO RESTORE THE FORMER ISRAELI EMBASSY IN
MOSCOW CONTINUES AS WORK ON THE PROJECT HAS NOT BEGUN.
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 15089 211814Z

SOURCE, HOWEVER, NOTES THAT SOVIETS HAVE, ALMOST
WITHOUT EXEPTION, BEEN RECEPTIVE TO SEMIOFFICIAL

ISRAELI REPRESENTATIONS IN SPECIFIC EMIGRATION CASES.
END SUMMARY.

1. NETHERLANDS EMBOFF WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUANCE OF ISRAELI ENTRY VISAS TOLD CONSOFF OCTOBER 16 THAT 1099 (826 ADULTS AND 273 MINOR DEPENDENTS) SOVIETS WITH EXIT PERMISSION FOR ISRAEL COMPLETED FINAL PROCESSING DURING SEPTEMBER 1975. THIS TOTAL REPRESENTS A 16

PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE AUGUST TOTAL OF 946 (698 ADULTS AND 248 MINOR DEPENDENTS). THE NUMBER OF JEWISH EMIGRANTS WHO DEPARTED MOSCOW DURING SEPTEMBER IS THE LARGEST MONTHLY TOTAL SINCE APRIL AND IS THE THIRD HIGHEST MONTHLY TOTAL REGISTERED DURING 1975. ADDITION OF THE SEPTEMBER FIGURES BRINGS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF JEWISH EMIGRANTS RECEIVING ISRAELI VISAS DURING 1975 TO 11,278 (6940 ADULTS AND 4338 MINOR DEPENDENTS). THE MONTHLY TOTALS FOR 1975 CONTINUE APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT BELOW 1974 AND 60 PERCENT BELOW 1973.

2. SOURCE INDICATES THAT THE MODERATE UPWARD TREND EXPERIENCED DURING SEPTEMBER HAS CONTINUED THROUGH THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF OCTOBER. AS OF OCTOBER 16, VISAS HAD BEEN ISSUED TO 701 SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS (516 ADULTS AND 185 MINOR DEPENDENTS). IF VISAS ARE ISSUED AT THE CURRENT RATE THROUGHOUT THE REMAINING WORK DAYS OF THE MONTH, THE OCTOBER FIGURES WILL BE THE HIGHEST OF ANY MONTH THIS YEAR.

3. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE REASONS FOR THIS CONTINUING UPTURN IN SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION. SOURCE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, IN THE WAKE OF THE SECOND SINAI AGREEMENT, MANY PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS HAVE FINALLY MADE THEIR DECISION TO DEPART THE USSR. APPARENTLY THE INCREASED PROSPECT OF A PEACEFUL FUTURE FOR ISRAEL HAS CONVINCED MANY PREVIOUSLY HESITANT SOVIET JEWS (REFTEL) TO BURN THEIR BRIDGES TO SOVIET SOCIETY.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 15089 211814Z

4. SOURCE COMMENTED ON OTHER ASPECTS OF SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS WITH WHICH HE IS FAMILIAR. HE MAINTAINED THAT THE PROJECT TO RESTORE THE FORMER ISRAELI EMBASSY IN MOSCOW WAS ORIGINATED BY THE SOVIET SIDE THROUGH UPDK RATHER THAN BY GOI. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THE FINANCING OF THE RESTORATION AND THE DATE ON WHICH WORK IS TO BEGIN ARE STILL UNDECIDED, AND MANNER IN WHICH UPDK COMMUNICATED RESTORATION PROJECT LEFT SLIGHT POSSIBILITY THAT BUILDING WILL NOT REMAIN UNDER DITCH CONTROL AFTER RESTORATION.

5. DESPITE THIS UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING RESTORATION PROJECT, SOURCE TOLD CONSOFFS THAT SOVIETS APPARENTLY WISH TO APPEAR CONCILIATORY TOWARD GOI ON SPECIFIC EMIGRATION CASES. ALTHOUGH GOI HAS ONLY INFREQUENTLY MADE SPECIFIC EXIT VISA REPRESENTATIONS, SOURCE MAINTAINED THAT SOVIETS HAVE, ALMOST WITHOUT EXCEPTION, RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO SUCH SEMI-OFFICIAL APPEALS. HE TOLD CONSOFF THAT GOI MADE SUCH AN APPEAL IN THE RECENTLY RESOLVED CASE OF JEWISH ACTIVIST YURIY PODRIACHIK (SEE ALSO STATE 215830 AND PREVIOUS). THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY OFFICER CONVEYING THE ISRAELI APPEAL WAS "CORDIALLY" RECEIVED AT A "HIGH LEVEL" OF MFA, AND SOURCE MAINTAINED THAT THAT REPRESENTATION, RATHER THAN US EFFORTS, WAS THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN RESOLUTION OF THE CASE.
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